

A TRIBUTE TO TOM LEDERER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tom Lederer. A lifelong resident of Philadelphia who gave much to the community, Tom was called by his Creator on Thursday March 22nd.

Thomas John Lederer was born on September 29, 1934 in Philadelphia to a family that believed in the principles of democratic government and civil service. His father Miles served as both Chair of the Democratic Party in Philadelphia and as a state legislator. His brothers Raymond and Bill would also serve in the legislature, with Ray becoming a member of Congress. Tom's brother Miles headed the local Riggers Union, while his brother Fran was the Chief of the County Detectives. Tom spent a lifetime serving as an inspector with the Philadelphia Water Department and raising kids, first his own six and then sixteen grandchildren. He also served the community as Boy Scout leader, community organizer and educator.

He was an active member of his Church, St. Michael's Roman Catholic, and his community. He was a Board Member of the Roman Catholic Alumni Association, Past President of the St. Joseph Prep Father's Club, Chairman of Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Committee, Boy Scout Master of Troop 488, Member of the Horticultural Society of Philadelphia and Penn State's Gardening Progress program, winner of a "Black Eye" community award, but most of all he was "Pop" to his sixteen grandchildren.

However, in his mind, his most proud association was being Rita Lavery's husband. Born two days apart, they were married for 56 years and friends for 70 of his 77 years. They started kindergarten at St. Michaels on the same day and were classmates and pals thereafter.

Together with Tom's wife, Rita, his six children, his sixteen grandchildren, and all his family and friends, I mourn his passing but celebrate his life.

HONORING MS. GERRY SMITH

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, I rise to honor one of South Florida's finest community leaders, Ms. Geraldine "Gerry" Smith.

Ms. Smith currently serves as President of the Women's Club of Hialeah. She was born and raised by in Hialeah and has dedicated her time and efforts to our community. She has a passion for helping others, and relishes her current role as president. Previously she worked on the School Board in Hialeah, a position she enjoyed and served admirably. More recently, she has found a way to combine her artistic ability and her passion for the community by providing an educational hobby for local senior citizens.

Every Saturday morning Ms. Smith teaches a group of senior citizens how to make jew-

elry, along with other activities. Her goal is to ensure that senior citizens have a great time and remain active after retirement. She also donates her time and money to Angel's Reach, an organization which helps children with autism. Together with the Women's Club of Hialeah, Ms. Smith actively supports the autistic community in South Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Gerry Smith for her continued service to the South Florida community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING TREY SMITH

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Trey Smith of the Moberly High School Wrestling team for his first Class 2 Missouri State Wrestling Championship. Mr. Smith won by decision in the 152-pound weight class.

Mr. Smith and his coaches should be commended for all their hard work throughout the regular season and for bringing home the state championship title in the Class 2 152-pound weight class to his school and community.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Mr. Smith for a job well done!

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN V. SULLIVAN, HOUSE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize parliamentarian John V. Sullivan for his long and distinguished service to the House of Representatives. Tomorrow, after 25 years of service to the House, John is retiring.

John is one of only four Parliamentarians who have served the House of Representatives. In this rare company, John stands out. In many ways, the Parliamentarian is the keeper of order in a House increasing lacking in civility. That John is equally respected on both sides of the aisle is testament to his fair hand and steady demeanor.

Before coming to Congress, John served in the United States Air Force as a Judge Advocate General (JAG). In this capacity, John had to represent, in a legal capacity, many odd and unruly individuals: an experience that prepared him well for his current position.

I will miss John's steady presence as Parliamentarian. However, I know the House will be well served by the excellent staff John assembled during his tenure.

John, thank you for your lifetime of public service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE MOUNT VERNON GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the girls of the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Basketball Team for winning the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Basketball is a sport that challenges the human spirit and tests the mental and physical abilities of the players. These girls, Amelia Bramer, Sally Cowherd, Danielle Goodman, Madison Hadlock, Jenna Kleine, Tamiaya Henderson, Audrey LaSalle, Blair Tettenhorst, Shailyn Benbrook, Mackenzie Farmer, Kaylee Hood, Megan Pope, and Shea Vandergrift, faced those challenges and as a result became a team. They trained as one, they competed as one, and together through their hard work and dedication they won the Missouri Class 3 State Championship.

Of course, the basketball players aren't the only champions; they had an outstanding team of talented coaches supporting them and guiding them along the way. I commend Head Coach Doug Hepler and assistant coaches Bridgett Schmutz, and Tom Cox, on an amazing accomplishment and a job well done.

The Lady Mountaineers team had an edge against each and every one of their opponents; their friends, family, and fans attended the games, cheered them on throughout the basketball season and followed them to Columbia for the state championships. The Mount Vernon community is justifiably proud of their team, and the team is fortunate to have such strong support from their community.

As if winning a state championship isn't enough of an accomplishment, the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Team has the distinct honor of winning it two of the last three years. This shows that our athletes and coaches in Mount Vernon are among the best in America and can stand proud in their accomplishments.

But even more important than that, the girls of the Mount Vernon Basketball team will have memories to last a lifetime. They've had that extraordinarily opportunity to live the dream of anyone who has ever dreamed of competing with the best and achieving victory.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Vernon Lady Mountaineers Basketball Team, the Missouri Class 3 State Champions.

HONORING JOSEPH C. THOMAS FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, former Mississippi State Senator Joseph C. Thomas. Senator Thomas is a lifelong resident of Yazoo City, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Jackson State University where he